Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MONROV 01684 101654Z ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 OES-06 /021 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3914

UNCLAS MONROVIA 1684

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: TBIO, LI

SUBJECT: LAETRILE (AMYGDALIN)

REF: STATE 49069

- 1. PHARMACEUTICAL BOARD OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH & SOCIAL WELFARE HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADVISING MINISTRY ON REGULATION AND CONTROL OF MEDICINES AND DRUGS. MEMBER OF BOARD WAS CONTACTED WHO IS ALSO OWNER OF LOCAL PHARMACY, AND INDIVIDUAL REPORTS NO KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT DRUG BEING USED FOR ANY PURPOSE IN LIBERIA.
- 2. MAJOR DRUG IMPORTER IN LIBERIA INDICATES DRUG IMPORT ENTRIES MUST BE CLEARED THROUGH MINISTRY OF HEALTH BUT THAT THIS CONSTITUTES NO CONTROL. FIRM HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT DRUG BEING IMPORTED INTO LIBERIA. IMPORTERS AND PHARMACISTS RELY ON THEIR OWN KNOWLEDGE AND REPUTATION OF DRUG MANUFACTURER IN PURCHASING AND DISPENSING DRUGS.
- 3. RECOMMENDATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL BOARD HAS BEEN TO ESTABLISH A TEST/QUALITY CONTROL LABORATORY AND TO IMPLEMENT REGULATIONS WHICH WOULD GOVERN SALE AND DISPENSING OF DRUGS. LACK OF RESOURCES WAS CITED AS REASON RECOMMENDATIONS ARE NOT BEING IMPLEMENTED. ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION WAS TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF SHARING AMONG SEVERAL W. AFRICAN COUNTRIES THE COST OF ESTABLISHING AND OPERATING A REGIONAL LABORATORY WHICH LIBERIA COULD DRAW UPON. UNCLASSIFIED

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4. INQUIRIES REVEAL ESSENTIALLY THAT SUBJECT DRUG IS PROBABLY NOT BEING USED IN LIBERIA, BUT THERE ARE NO CONTROLS WHICH WOULD PREVENT ITS USE.

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